United Nations A/C.3/71/SR.12

General Assembly
Seventy-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
4 November 2016

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 12th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 12 October 2016, at 3 p.m.

Chair:	Ms. Mejía Vélez	(Colombia)
later:	Ms. Węgrzynowska	(Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 64: Promotion and protection of the rights of children (A/71/41)

(a) Promotion and protection of the rights of children (A/71/205, A/71/206, A/71/213, A/71/253, A/71/261, A/71/277 and A/71/413)

(b) Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children (A/71/175)

1. **Ms. Zerrougui** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict), introducing her report (A/71/205), said that reducing the impact of armed conflict on children was a daunting task faced with serious challenges. The means and methods of warfare used by some parties to conflict had killed and maimed thousands of children and forced millions to flee in search of a safer environment. The unspeakable plight of the children in South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen illustrated the urgent need for action at all levels. There was also some encouraging progress. In Colombia, children were being separated from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia — People's Army (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia — Ejercito del Pueblo (FARC-EP)), and in Sudan and Somalia, several detained children had been released.

2. The treatment of children separated from or allegedly associated with armed groups was one of her most pressing concerns. Current national security responses were sidelining legal institutions in favour of military and other security actors. In certain situations the de facto response was to deprive civilians, including children, of their liberty outside of legal frameworks and without due process. Detention was being used to recruit and use children for intelligence gathering, which put them in grave danger and compromised their full reintegration. Arbitrary detention was also employed by some States.

3. Although some Member States faced serious threats from armed groups that committed abhorrent acts, pervasive lawlessness and human rights violations in security responses could never be justified. She was encouraged by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 70/291 on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, which called for fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems designed with the rights and needs of children in mind. Children who had been recruited and used must be treated primarily as victims. Reintegration of separated children was crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability of peace, security and development. The General Assembly and Member States should encourage Governments and other relevant actors to provide the necessary support for reintegration programmes. She proposed increasing technical and financial resources for the provision of psychosocial support to children.

4. Children were also seriously impacted by the conduct on the battlefield of some Government forces and their allies. The use of explosive weapons with wide effects in populated areas had led to large-scale incidents of children being killed or maimed and attacks on health care workers and institutions. Governments must commit to refrain from using those types of weapons in populated areas, a commitment that would merely reiterate adherence to the basic principles of international humanitarian law, such as distinction and proportionality. The progress achieved towards the protection of children was jeopardized by the increased use of militia and armed groups by Governments. Her Office had worked to train armed forces on the protection of children and to implement systems to prevent violations, especially in the recruitment and use of children. However, pro-Government groups were frequently comprised of fighters from the local community who lacked training and did not respect or even understand international humanitarian law. Those groups were recruiting and using children from their communities, and some were committing the same atrocities against boys and girls as the armed groups they were supposed to counteract. The international community must make a more compelling case to Governments that heavy-handed responses were dangerously counterproductive to their own interests of security, development and prosperity. One of the main drivers of recruitment for armed groups was violations of international law by Government forces or their allies. Such violations and the lack of accountability only served to perpetuate conflict.

5. The outcome document of the recent high-level plenary meeting on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants had included strong commitments to protect the human rights of all refugees, including

girls. Ensuring that all refugee children were receiving education within a few months of arrival was a particularly welcome target, and she urged the international community to translate those words into action. She hoped that there would be a strong focus on the rights of children affected by conflict in discussions on the global compact on refugees and that there would be other forums to address the plight of internally displaced children as well. Children affected by armed conflicts, including internally displaced children, could also be assisted within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The strong interest in their implementation could be harnessed to ensure the necessary capacity and financing. Education in emergencies and support to children disabled by conflict should be a particular focus in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

6. Some progress had been made, especially in the context of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, but it was not enough. Serious progress could not be achieved without prioritizing conflict resolution and prevention, which was the only way to significantly reduce the number of violations against children. Without that focus, there would only be incremental progress that could easily be wiped out with a change in the conflict dynamics.

7. **Ms. Marteles Gutiérrez del Alamo** (Spain) said that her Government was disappointed that normative progress had not resulted in better protection for civilians in conflict. Measures to avoid or minimize impact on civilians were ignored and, in the worst cases, deliberately violated. Children were particularly vulnerable in armed conflict, especially girls, refugees and displaced children. Attacks on schools and hospitals, which were becoming more frequent, and sexual abuses perpetrated by Blue Helmets gave particular cause for concern.

8. Spain was a member of the Working Group of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict and had helped to draft Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) condemning attacks on doctors and hospitals. Her Government supported the inclusion of cross-cutting protection for children in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and adequate training for peacekeepers in the protection of minors. In addition, a plan of action should be established that would cover demobilization to reintegration, with special attention to girls. It also advocated for strengthening the capacities of legal and judicial systems in affected countries, as accountability was crucial. The Security Council should refer the most serious violations of international humanitarian law to the International Criminal Court, and children used by terrorist or armed groups should be seen as victims and have access to rehabilitation programmes.

9. **Ms. Brooke** (United States of America) said that while there was significant support in the international community for the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, gaps still remained in systemic prevention and accountability for the recruitment and use of children. She asked the Special Representative what best practices and suggestions she could share in order to address the gap more effectively.

10. **Ms. Nescher-Stuetzel** (Liechtenstein) said that the annex to the most recent report had been amended, under pressure from one of the parties involved. As changes had also been made in the past, she asked the Special Representative how she evaluated the independence of her mandate and whether she could share any ideas for ensuring that similar instances would not be repeated in the future. Parties to conflict used displacement to exploit the vulnerability of children and commit violations, such as human trafficking. She would like to hear more about how children, and in particular unaccompanied minors, could best be protected from human trafficking and modern slavery.

11. **Ms. Bardaoui** (Tunisia) said that her delegation supported the call of the Special Representative for further mobilization in support of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. Despite the progress achieved in the past 20 years, many difficulties remained, and violence against children had only increased. The Special Representative should provide detailed results, as pertained to children, from the sixth high-level retreat on the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa, convened by the African Union, on the theme "Terrorism, mediation and non-State armed groups" and to share her vision of the work that should be undertaken in that regard.

12. **Ms. Abushawesh** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the Palestinian people and their children had endured untold suffering and misery for 50 years living under the brutal military occupation.

Sadly, conditions worsened rapidly on a daily basis, especially for children, as a result of the practices and policies of Israel, the occupying Power. It would be helpful to discuss ways in which the international community could provide much-needed protection for Arab children living under Israeli occupation and what should be done to ensure accountability for the violations committed with complete impunity by the occupying Power against the Palestinian children. She also asked whether the Special Representative planned to visit to the occupied State of Palestine.

13. **Ms. Al-Iemimi** (Qatar) said that, despite the progress made in the past 20 years, there were an increasing number of violations in countries suffering from armed conflict. Her delegation appreciated the recommendations of the Special Representative to encourage efforts to rehabilitate children suffering from armed conflict and stressed the provision of education in emergencies. The Government had launched a number of initiatives in areas that suffered from conflicts and wars. It had assisted in the training of Syrian refugees and contributed to a trust fund to educate Syrian children, thereby providing the necessary skills and training to allow Syrians to contribute constructively to their societies. Qatar played an active role in the global study on children deprived of liberty and the United Nations Study on Violence against Children. She would like more information about the best means of protecting the basic rights of children in armed conflict, especially access to education.

14. **Ms. Dravec** (Slovenia) said that her Government had endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration in 2016 and, in order to promote and address the rights of children displaced by conflict, had continued its support for the physical and psychological rehabilitation of Syrian children in Lebanon and Jordan. A special worksheet entitled "Children refugees" had been created for schoolchildren in Slovenia in order to raise their awareness of the rights of child refugees and create an atmosphere of understanding, acceptance and inclusion of children seeking refuge in Slovenia.

15. The Children, Not Soldiers campaign had proven to be successful, but it would soon end and serious concerns still remained. The campaign was strongly supported by Member States and other stakeholders, and Government commitments had led to a reduction in verified cases of recruitment and use of children. She would like to hear how the activities of the campaign would continue after its final year.

16. **Ms. Sommerstein** (United Kingdom) said that her Government was pleased to note that more than 8,000 child soldiers had been released in 2015 and welcomed the decision by Sudan to sign an action plan under the Children, Not Soldiers campaign in March 2016. Despite the progress made, some armed groups remained resistant to international pressure. The international community must therefore continue to find innovative and practical ways to assist countries and parties in the full implementation of their respective action plans while continuing to address those who persisted in committing violations against children.

17. The Government strongly condemned the allegations of abuse and sexual exploitation of children by United Nations peacekeepers and personnel. The rights of children within peacekeeping operations must be strengthened to prevent such violations and abuses. The United Kingdom supported the action of the Secretary-General to repatriate military and police troops from peacekeeping missions when there was credible evidence of widespread and systematic cases of sexual exploitation and abuse or when States had failed to hold perpetrators to account.

18. **Ms. Jazukevičiūtė** (Lithuania) said that her Government and welcomed the progress achieved during the past two decades under the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, in particular concerning monitoring and reporting mechanisms as well as maintaining a constant dialogue with relevant stakeholders. Nevertheless, serious challenges remained. The treatment of children who had been captured and faced prolonged detention by non-State armed groups gave cause for concern. Children involved in armed conflicts were victims and should be entitled to full protection under international human rights law. Their reintegration into society was essential for building sustainable peace and security. She asked the Special Representative to suggest additional steps that Member States should take to introduce alternatives to detention and what additional support and resources were needed to ensure the reintegration of children.

19. Her Government was alarmed that children were still being recruited and used as soldiers in armed conflicts by non-State armed groups in places like the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, in direct violation of international law. In 2015, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine had reported that separatists of the Donetsk People's Republic, backed by the Russian Federation, recruited children into armed youth groups and used them to man checkpoints and gather intelligence. She would like to know what challenges impeded engagement with armed groups to end that practice.

20. **Ms. Saran** (South Africa) said that her delegation commended the Special Representative for addressing the attacks on health care and protected personnel. Under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Government of South Africa was a champion of that issue and had placed great importance on the protection of health care, health personnel and infrastructure. She asked how best to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law, with respect to children in armed conflict.

21. **Ms. Wilson** (Australia) said that more must be done to address the recruitment of children by non-State armed groups. In her report, the Special Representative had noted particular concern for the proliferation of actors involved in armed conflicts and the fact that many of those groups had persistently recruited or used children for many years. The report had also highlighted significant gaps in the prevention of and accountability for recruitment and use of children. The International Criminal Court could play a role when national authorities were unable or unwilling to investigate and prosecute such crimes. She asked what were the greatest constraints on the United Nations, in either resources or mandate, inhibiting the protection of the rights of children in armed conflict.

22. **Mr. de la Mora Salcedo** (Mexico) said that the mandate of the Special Representative had achieved significant progress over the past 20 years. Nevertheless, many troubling challenges persisted, especially in protracted armed conflicts. His delegation shared the concerns of the Special Representative with regard to the increase in forced displacements of minors, the use of extreme violence and the recruitment of children by non-State armed groups. The interests of children must be given the utmost priority in all cases. He asked whether there was a link between the Human Rights Up Front initiative of the Secretary-General and the prevention of violence against children in armed conflict.

23. **Mr. Ruiz Blanco** (Colombia) said that his Government commended the Special Representative for her work in the course of the Havana peace process to successfully remove boys and girls from the ranks of FARC-EP. The Government of Colombia reiterated its total commitment to seeking peace and would continue to work tirelessly until there was a national consensus to achieve a stable and lasting peace. The Government sought to release and reintegrate all children involved in the armed conflict and to effectively implement guarantees of non-repetition.

24. The task force established under Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) had completed its review ahead of schedule. It was important for Colombia to receive feedback from that process on possible violations of the rights of children so that the relevant authorities could take appropriate measures.

25. **Ms. Kirianoff Crimmins** (Switzerland) said that her delegation shared the concern with regard to the increasing number of systematic attacks against hospitals and schools in a number of armed conflicts, which seemed to suggest a deliberate strategy on the part of some parties to conflict. Those attacks constituted a serious violation of international humanitarian law, and Switzerland called on all parties to conflict to respect their obligations. She asked how the mandate might be affected by Security Council resolution 2286 (2016) as it pertained to the protection of medical missions.

26. The international community must identify and implement solutions to assist children displaced by armed conflicts. It would be helpful to hear the views of the Special Representative on the possibility of including a specific focus on children in the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and the global compact on refugees, to be designed in the course of the next two years.

27. **Ms. Zerrougui** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict) said that she was relieved to see many delegations providing support to the mandate because the Member

States were the ones who could help it deliver results. In response to questions concerning the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, she had never expected the campaign to end the recruitment of children, even by Government forces, in just two years. The goal, rather, had been to bring attention to the issue and create momentum for change. Consensus had been reached among all Member States on the recruitment of children. In addition, all Member States on the list had signed an action plan and were working with her mandate on implementation. There were still challenges and setbacks, for instance, in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, but the legitimacy of the mandate was no longer questioned. The most important best practice was to identify gaps and determine why children joined armed groups. It was important to have a roadmap in place to identify what had been accomplished and what was still lacking. A lack of birth registration or age verification in recruitment centres; gaps in the legal framework, with no definition of a child or criminalization of crimes committed against children; or competing priorities, such as a lack of capacity or lack of expertise, were among the challenges identified. It was important to have meaningful dialogue with the police, intelligence agencies and the military, because they could make a difference.

28. Occasionally, States were angry with their continued inclusion on the list despite the progress made. For example, despite the policies implemented by the Government in Myanmar, children were still finding their way into the military.

29. Her mandate also advocated for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict as a means of addressing gaps in legislation. A legal obligation under international law legitimized the work of the mandate on the ground. In her visit to Puntland, Somalia, for example, the argument had been made to her that children were considered adults at the age of 15 under Muslim law. FARC-EP in Colombia also considered children to be adults at the age of 15.

30. Once the Government was committed and the necessary tools put in place, it was possible to address the non-State actors. Thirty-two non-State actors currently operated within the seven countries on the list, owing to a lack of capacity, the lack of a legal framework and the legitimization of recruiting children. Therefore, establishing the best practices with the Government would facilitate the work with non-State actors. The mandate was already working to develop action plans with some non-State actors, with the consent of the Government. For example, the mandate had worked with FARC-EP to determine three guiding principles in the peace agreement: to take into account the best interest of the child, to consider children as victims and to prioritize their reintegration. She hoped to use the Colombian peace agreement as a model of best practices for future efforts. There was much work to be done with regard to non-State actors, and the mandate strove to engage with them whenever possible, but some were not willing.

31. Following the end of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, her mandate would continue to work with any State that still needed support, not just those on the list. Gaps must be identified early to prevent problems in the future; the mandate thus collaborated with regional institutions, such as the African Union, the Arab League and the European Union.

32. **Ms. Lindner** (Austria) said that the report covered the protection challenges posed by violent extremism and underlined the need to treat children associated with armed groups, including those engaged in violent extremism, as victims rather than security threats. The accountability of children who had perpetrated terrorism-related offenses needed be pursued in a way that fulfilled their specific needs and rights, fostered reintegration and prevented recidivism. She would like to hear more about best practices in capacity-building for law enforcement, justice systems and the child welfare sector.

33. **Ms. Sukacheva** (Russian Federation) said that her delegation was pleased with the success of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign, but felt that the major problem continued to be the actions of non-State armed groups. In the most recent report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on children in armed conflict, most of the parties listed in the annex were non-State armed groups. Unfortunately, action plans prepared with the assistance of the United Nations by parties to a conflict were no guarantee that the situation affecting children had actually improved. She asked what steps were most effective to normalize the situation on the ground.

34. **Mr. Al-Kumaim** (Yemen) said that his Government had taken many steps to combat violence and the recruitment and use of children and had signed an action plan with the United Nations in 2014. The current situation, however, had interrupted the work on that campaign, and he wondered whether there was a way to continue the work in light of the ongoing conflict.

35. His Government was attempting to include children in negotiations in the hope that their presence might lead to peace and build confidence. The protection of children and schools was vital, and the direct cooperation between the mandate of the Special Representative and the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Yemen was essential to combating the recruitment and use of children in the armed conflict. He hoped that the expertise gained by the Special Representative in the peace negotiations in Colombia could be applied to Yemen.

36. **Mr. Qassem Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation wondered why references to the coalition led by Saudi Arabia had been removed from the report of the Special Representative, as that country was responsible for the killing of thousands of children in Yemen. The Royal Saudi Arabian Air Force had just recently carried out a massacre in a civilian area. He also wondered why the Israeli army was not mentioned in the report, as it was responsible for the killing of children in occupied Palestine. He wished to stress that there were a number of Syrian refugees, especially children, living in the refugee centre in Qatar, despite reports to the contrary.

37. **Ms. Tasuja** (Estonia) said that her delegation recognized the long-term effects of attacks on health care, especially in the prolonged process of rebuilding a staff of skilled doctors and nurses and a physical infrastructure. However, the issue of children in armed conflict was also a severe, ongoing problem where a quick response could save lives. More information on the most practical, short-term solutions and contributions that could be made by Member States immediately would be welcome. It would also be helpful to elaborate on the ways in which children who had been accused of involvement in non-State armed groups could be reintegrated into their communities effectively.

38. **Mr. Rohland** (Germany) said that the international community must continue to renew mechanisms for the protection of children in armed conflict and not allow such mechanisms to become stale or unduly politicized. The increasing number of attacks on schools and hospitals must be investigated, and perpetrators of war crimes must be held to account. He asked how regional organizations could contribute to the implementation of action plans and assist in bringing perpetrators into compliance with international obligations.

39. **Ms. Enesen** (Norway) said that conflict adversely affected the development of children, especially when they were denied their right to attend school. Her delegation urged all States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, an important and practical tool to reduce attacks on schools and the military use of schools. Schools were also increasingly being used to recruit child soldiers in several countries in Africa. She asked how that growing trend could be curbed and for suggestions on how to encourage more States to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration.

40. **Ms. Elhassan** (Sudan) said that her Government had always been committed to protecting children, and extensive efforts had been carried out to ensure that the rights of children were well protected, including the establishment of an integrated legal system for justice, a special unit within the police department dedicated to child and family protection, a unit within the armed forces for the protection of human rights and a special unit to combat violence against women and children under the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security. In addition, the Government had signed an action plan with the United Nations to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children in March 2016, and the implementation process had already begun. The 21 children who had been detained by the Government for their association with a rebel armed group had been released in September and would receive proper rehabilitation in order to be reintegrated with their families.

41. She thanked the Special Representative for her efforts to protect children in Sudan and renewed the commitment of her Government to implement the plan of action and to cooperate with the Special Representative in order to promote and protect the rights of children.

42. **Mr. O'Brien** (Observer for the European Union) said that the report underscored the necessity of ensuring education during times of armed conflicts. In Syria, in places like eastern Aleppo, recent aerial attacks had not only led to the postponement of the school year but had also halved student attendance. He would like to hear more about the long-term effects on society as a whole when children were denied an education and what could be done to ensure safe access to education for children in armed conflict.

43. As the reintegration of children was crucial to ensure the long-term sustainability of peace and security, he asked what specific measures could be taken by Member States, giving special attention to the reintegration of girls, and what were recommended alternatives to the systematic detention of children allegedly associated with non-State armed groups.

44. **Ms. Garcia Gutierrez** (Costa Rica) said that she would like to know what measures States could implement to ensure that children who had been recruited by armed groups could be reintegrated into their communities and what special attention must be given to the needs of girls.

45. **Ms. Coroa** (Portugal) said that her Government wished to reiterate its full support for the mandate, which had been carried out with integrity and independence. The increasingly complex emerging and protracted conflicts had devastating impacts on children. Given that ensuring education for all children at all levels in emergency situations was essential to creating hope for a peaceful future, she asked how the international community could develop an emergency mechanism to ensure access to education at all levels in areas of conflict.

46. **Ms. Bellout** (Algeria) said that her delegation would like to hear more about the challenges confronting the work of the Special Representative in the field and suggestions for overcoming those obstacles.

47. **Ms. Sage** (New Zealand) said that her delegation was pleased that the report had included children with disabilities and mentioned the need to focus on that particular group. It had also reflected on the successes of the past 20 years. Looking ahead to the next 20 years, she asked what key challenges would arise both for children in conflict and post-conflict settings and for the mandate, and what Member States could do to better anticipate and respond to those challenges and support a robust mandate moving forward.

48. **Ms. Gebrekidan** (Eritrea) asked how the international community could end the persistent recruitment of children from refugee camps by armed groups and what measures could be taken by host Governments.

49. **Mr. Mikayilli** (Azerbaijan) thanked the Special Representative for raising the issue of internally displaced children, who were just as vulnerable as refugees, and called for continued focus on those children.

50. **Ms. Zerrougui** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict) said that, with regard to education, it had sometimes not been the first priority in the past because the parents affected by conflict had been illiterate. In the current conflicts, displaced persons and refugees were requesting access to education for their children and diplomas as proof of completion so that children could continue to have access to education once the conflicts had ended. With millions of displaced and refugee children, it was important to have alternatives in place to allow for the continuation of education even in emergency situations. The international community must assess the situation on the ground, evaluate the existing expertise, identify gaps and determine how best to provide support. Accountability was vital to protecting children, schools, education and health care. If the international community addressed the violations and held perpetrators to account, there would be fewer attacks and violations. Many of the attacks were due to widespread impunity and lack of control over the militia, not tactics of war. To end that practice, States needed to sign the Safe Schools Declaration, prohibit military use of schools and make it clear that attacks and violations against schools were not allowed.

51. With regard to alternatives to detention, regional organizations helped to provide Member States with the necessary expertise and best practices, such as a standard operating procedure for handing over children to protection actors. A number of children were detained by the military in an effort to gain intelligence, and many had died in detention because humanitarian workers could not gain access to them and the military did not have the capacity to feed them.

The mandate had been working with UNICEF and other partners to put in place the tools and mechanisms to facilitate a quick handover of children to protection actors.

52. With regard to administrative detention within law enforcement, detaining children was a violation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, under which detention was considered an exception to be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. Punitive detention was not a solution. In her experience as a juvenile judge, she had seen that all children could be reintegrated, even in the most complicated cases. With targeted programmes and knowledge of the existing expertise, the international community could work to ensure that detention was not an option.

53. Resources must be invested in education, reintegration, child protection and legislation to hold accountable violators of the rights of children. Those resources were essential to peace and stability. The biggest challenge for the United Nations was having sufficient funding and, occasionally, the expertise on the ground. When Member States prioritized those issues and supported the mandate, it legitimized the work and helped to address the challenges. Another challenge was in working with people who were not interested in their image, in peace or in dialogue, because they did not have a political future. When her mandate could not help directly, she went to those who had influence and could make a difference.

54. Trafficking was another issue facing children in armed conflict. Girls were trafficked, abused, sexually abused and married early. Children who had lost hope in the camps could be used by gangs and criminals. Trafficking must therefore be addressed and included in the response to violations affecting children in conflict.

55. **Ms. Santos País** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children), introducing her report (A/71/206), said that the international community had a responsibility to prioritize the elimination of violence against children in the policy agenda of every State. To that end, her Office had launched the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative in partnership with other United Nations agencies. The initiative was also complemented by the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children and the SDG Alliance 8.7 to end child labour. It was high time to translate commitments into action and to create a culture of respect for the rights of children and zero tolerance for violence. The recommendations in the United Nations Study on Violence against Children were still as relevant as they had been in 2006. In addition, the experience gained in the past 10 years and the important initiatives being promoted in Member States provided a solid foundation to make a difference in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

56. More than 90 countries had established a comprehensive national policy agenda to end violence against children, and more than 50 countries had enacted a clear prohibition of all forms of violence against children. Implementation of those policies required strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms. The capacity of States to gather and analyse data in order to make informed decisions must be enhanced. Accurate and disaggregated data was vital to identifying gaps and inequities and areas where greater investment was needed. Data systems in many parts of the world had been consolidated, and important household surveys had been conducted in various regions.

57. The report addressed the special risks faced by children in detention, and she urged Member States to support the global study on children deprived of liberty, which had been requested by the Third Committee in 2014 and would provide the international community with a strong opportunity to work together in order to ensure the rights of those children to liberty, security and effective protection from violence.

58. The report also highlighted the plight of the many millions of children who were fleeing their homes as a result of violence, political instability, breakdown of society or conflicts. In most cases, children were not referred to the appropriate child protection authorities and therefore lacked access to age- and gender-sensitive protection services, as well as information to facilitate family tracing or to seek redress for the violence they had suffered. In many cases, they were deprived of liberty rather than provided the nurturing environment to which they were entitled, and their development and protection were put at risk. It was imperative and urgent to safeguard the rights of those

children, prioritize their best interests, bring an end to their detention and ensure a friendly, safe and secure environment, in accordance with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Liberty and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

59. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on protecting children from bullying (A/71/213), she said that the impact of any form of violence on the development and well-being of children was pervasive, serious and long-lasting. In the case of bullying and cyberbullying, that impact was exacerbated by a deep sense of fear, loneliness and helplessness. Bullying was one of the top concerns for children, as evidenced by both the testimony that she heard in her missions and the research conducted by leading experts across regions. More than 100,000 children had been surveyed for the UNICEF "U-Report", with which her Office had been pleased to collaborate. Some children were more frequently targeted, including those with disabilities, on the move, from disadvantaged backgrounds or out of school, as well as those who were marginalized because of their appearance or because they were perceived as having a gender identity different from what was seen as the norm.

60. There were significant national experiences and sound evidence to inform action to address the challenges, and it was imperative to bridge the persistent empathy gap and raise public awareness. Parents and caregivers needed assistance to recognize warning signs and determine how to respond, develop communication skills to support child victims and practice non-violent parenting in order to model positive behaviour. Children must be empowered to prevent and address bullying, and those most at risk needed to be supported with special protection measures. It was crucial to involve children in anti-bullying discussions and initiatives, reinforce their sense of responsibility for their actions and respect towards others, enhance their skills and confidence to stand up to bullying and feel reassured and supported when they chose to report a case and seek help. School and community programmes remained indispensable to mobilizing all stakeholders in order to uphold human rights and respect for diversity, ensure prompt action when violent behaviour occurred and monitor progress.

61. States must protect children and their rights through a comprehensive, well-coordinated and well-funded policy framework, sound legislation and investment in reliable, disaggregated data. More work was needed to promote lasting change in the attitudes and behaviours that put children at risk in order to develop internationally comparable indicators and monitoring methodologies and to fill knowledge gaps. Although the achievements of the past ten years were encouraging, the international community must be steadfast and act with a deep sense of urgency.

62. *Ms. Węgrzynowska (Poland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

63. **Mr. Araújo Prado** (Brazil) said that Brazil and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) States had adopted a regional plan on violence against children that aligned with the 2030 Agenda. At the request of MERCOSUR, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had issued an advisory opinion on migrant children in 2014, which had established the obligations of States to guarantee protection for migrant children, including protection from any violence that they might be subjected to within their country of origin or destination.

64. Brazil fully supported the United Nations global study on children deprived of liberty and encouraged all States to adopt the Standard Minimum Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Liberty as a normative framework and establish effective monitoring systems for detention facilities that held children in order to prevent abuses, investigate incidents and assess conditions of detention. He asked the Special Representative how Member States could support the efforts to further the global study and how the global study would approach the issue of migrant children.

65. **Mr. Nuno** (Spain) said that children who were free from violence were the best guarantee of inclusive and open societies in the future. In 2015, his Government had implemented important legislative reforms, including a law to modify the protection system for children and adolescents. It had included a broad and comprehensive definition of violence, as proposed in general comment No. 13 (2011) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The law also considered the establishment of a national registry of sex offenders and a procedure to provide security forces and law enforcement officers with international

notifications about individuals with criminal records of that nature. The legislative reforms were the result of greater social awareness of the mistreatment of children, and he asked how to continue to make progress in increasing awareness for types of violence that were less visible, such as cyberbullying and psychological violence.

66. **Ms. Tasuja** (Estonia) said that her delegation commended the Special Representative for her work in the implementation of target 16.2 under Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals to eliminate all forms of violence against children. Her Government remained highly committed to the contributions that the Information and Communications Technology Section made to the human rights of children in regard to issues such as free speech and awareness-raising. According to the report, an online platform had been created under the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative in order to provide information and resources for the support and monitoring of progress in global efforts to end all forms of violence against children. She would like to know whether the platform was being used effectively and properly.

67. The report also mentioned that the hidden nature of violence made it difficult to collect data and measure its impact on children. She wondered if there were ways to expand the relationship between national monitoring mechanisms and children.

68. **Ms. McElwaine** (Observer for the European Union) said that the report outlined measures that had been taken to monitor juvenile detention centres and implement changes in juvenile justice systems and yet, despite those reforms, serious violations had been documented. She asked the Special Representative to elaborate on the recommendation that children should be free to raise concerns and make complaints without the threat of retaliation.

69. The European Union was interested to know whether the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative was receiving the support it needed from Governments and other stakeholders, as well as the level of engagement of civil society organizations, and how the initiative would interact with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and the SDG Alliance 8.7 to end child labour. In addition, she asked for more information on the challenges faced by refugee and migrant children along their journey and on the threat of violence that they often faced.

70. **Mr. de la Mora Salcedo** (Mexico) said that a large number of children and adolescents were currently living with violence in Mexico, including physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as discrimination and abandonment. His Government therefore reaffirmed its commitment to their protection and had joined the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, which aimed to increase the visibility of those minors most vulnerable to violence by promoting the participation of various actors in the design and implementation of protection measures. It would be helpful to hear what good practices had been identified that would help to bring attention to minors who were in conflict with the law or involved in judicial processes to avoid their internment in detention centres.

71. **Mr. Heinzer** (Switzerland) said that Switzerland had pledged to provide an expert to assist the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in carrying out the global study on children deprived of liberty, and he requested an update on its current status, in particular the status of its financing. He also asked how the application of the 2030 Agenda, in particular target 16.2, would be monitored and how the global study could assist in that objective.

72. **Ms. Coroa** (Portugal) said that breaking the silence was instrumental to changing attitudes that condoned violence against children. Given that data could play a crucial role in preventing, understanding and combating violence, she asked the Special Representative to identify critical measures that must be implemented to achieve that change, and to share some of the recent initiatives and developments taken at the regional level to assist those groups of children who were especially vulnerable to bullying and other forms of violence.

73. **Ms. Al-Temimi** (Qatar) said that her Government had supported the inclusion of target 16.2 in the 2030 Agenda in order to move towards a world free from fear. The Doha Declaration, adopted at the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, had integrated children and youth issues in judiciary reform. She asked how the international community could contribute to the global study on children deprived of liberty with a view to achieving effective outcomes aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

74. With regard to the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar had launched an initiative to assist Syrian refugees in developing vocational skills; it was not a training centre. Qatar had received more than 60,000 refugees who all benefited from the same rights as its citizens.

75. **Ms. Lindner** (Austria) said that her Government welcomed the efforts of the Special Representative, together with UNICEF, to mobilize support for the global study on children deprived of liberty and looked forward to the results. The preparatory process having laid the foundations for the global study, it would be interesting to hear what opportunities and challenges should be highlighted.

76. **Ms. Cid Carreño** (Chile) said that her Government was committed to eliminating all forms of violence, as set out in the 2030 Agenda, and was undertaking the necessary changes to its national legislation to bring it in line with the Convention the Rights of the Child and the recommendations made by the Special Representative in the course of her visit in 2015. A bill currently before the legislature provided for the protection of children from all forms of violence, and children could only be deprived of liberty in exceptional cases.

77. In partnership with the Office of the Special Representative and UNICEF, the Government was organizing a conference, to be held in November 2016, in Santiago, Chile, on crime prevention and the reintegration of adolescents in conflict with criminal law within the framework of the global study on children deprived of liberty.

78. **Ms. Enesen** (Norway) said that her Government welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on protecting children from bullying and endorsed its recommendations. Child participation and contributions must be at the heart of efforts to combat bullying. Bullying was demeaning and could lead to serious health issues for affected children, and cyberbullying raised new challenges that needed to be addressed, both at the national and international level. She asked the Special Representative to elaborate on effective measures to fight cyberbullying, and how States could best support the global study on children deprived of liberty.

79. **Ms. Omiya** (Japan) said that, in order to create a society in which children could grow up healthy and unaffected by violence, social services must be improved and high-quality education promoted. As part of its international commitments, Japan had provided financial aid to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that assisted developing countries in such areas as maternal and child health, welfare services and education. The international community must consider the many forms of violence against children in order to respond effectively. As the number of children using the Internet grew every year, violence perpetrated on the Internet was also increasing, such as cyberbullying and child pornography. Although the Government was advocating for the safe use of the Internet with children and their guardians, it was uncertain how best to protect children from those forms of violence and asked for suggestions from the Special Representative.

80. **Ms. Kwan** (Canada) asked the Special Representative to identify the main gaps in the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, whether improvement could be seen in the support services provided to child victims of violence to assist in their recovery and development and whether there were gaps in the way that Member States addressed preventing violence, sanctioning perpetrators and helping victims to recover.

81. **Ms. Dravec** (Slovenia) said that at the national level, the law to prevent family violence was being amended to include the prohibition of corporal punishment and a new programme for children and youth was being created in accordance with the provisions of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021). At the international level, Slovenia continued to actively support the "Our Rights" project to provide human rights education to children.

82. The Global Partnership and Fund to End Violence against Children, launched in July 2016, had been a step towards reaching the goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda for a world of peaceful, just and inclusive societies that were free from fear and violence, and she asked what steps could be taken at the international level to accelerate progress in reaching target 16.2.

83. **Ms. Santos Pais** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children) said that Member States had the primary responsibility

for combating violence against children, and the international community could only make a difference and increase momentum by working together to address the problems that persisted.

84. In response to questions concerning the global study on children deprived of liberty, the number of children currently deprived of liberty was unknown. The global study would therefore provide an opportunity to document good practices and establish a data system. It would also identify who was deprived of liberty, where, in what conditions, for what reasons and for how long. Above all, it would provide the necessary evidence to prevent deprivation of liberty and invest in non-custodial alternatives. She had facilitated the Inter-Agency Task Force to move forward with the global study, which had also received support from a number of NGOs and community organizations and benefited from an excellent cross-regional research network, the contributions of leading experts and the latest evidence in the field. It had been a priority to ensure that the global study would be as comprehensive as possible and use the definition of deprivation of liberty agreed upon in the Standard Minimum Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Liberty and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which would allow for the inclusion of children who were deprived of liberty when awaiting a decision concerning their status as migrants, asylum seekers or refugees, as well as children who were stateless, in administrative detention or in military custody. There were also significant challenges. The global study had been requested by the General Assembly with the qualifier that it was to be funded from voluntary contributions, which meant that it was very much dependent on the goodwill of the international community. Despite the willingness to move forward, it would be very difficult to take tangible steps without financial support from Member States.

85. The 2030 Agenda, which had united development and human rights for the first time, provided an opportunity to capitalize on the experience and knowledge gained from the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols, as well as lessons learned in the follow-up process to the recommendations of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children. A number of the Governments that had volunteered to be the first participants to implement the 2030 Agenda were putting in place important structures, promoting coordination, developing policy frameworks and taking legal steps. The further implementation of the 2030 Agenda could be promoted based on what had been learned by those first participants. Despite the discussion at the high-level political forum on sustainable development, however, the 2030 Agenda included very few references to children and only one reference to violence against children. One of the key lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals had been that countries affected by violence lagged behind, with higher rates of child mortality, malnutrition and children out of school. Violence was a core dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals and must be placed at their centre.

86. In response to questions concerning data, some States did not have the needed tools and methodologies in place. Indicators had already been established to assess physical, psychological and sexual violence against children as well as trafficking, and the UNICEF multiple indicator cluster survey was already employed in more than 70 countries.

87. In response to questions concerning cyberbullying and other less-recognized forms of violence against children, the international community must begin by collaborating with children. Children must be alerted to the risks, and parents must be provided with support to learn how to communicate with their children about their online lives and learn how to surf the Internet together.

88. **Ms. Burapachaisri** (Thailand) said that her Government appreciated the invaluable support of the Special Representative in the formulation and implementation of the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Children. She asked how such a regional plan could promote progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to children.

89. **Ms. Johnston** (United States of America) said that her delegation encouraged Member States to collaborate with the Special Representative on further data collection and research on violence against children, as the realization of target 16.2 of the 2030 Agenda would require significant collaboration and commitment from all Member States. All Governments

must do their part to reduce the alarming numbers of children who had endured some form of violence. Individuals also held some responsibility and must be educated in order to speak up and act once alerted to abuses committed against children. The international community must work together to ensure that there were strong institutions and mechanisms for countering those abuses.

90. Children must be empowered with easily understandable, age-sensitive and culturally appropriate information about their rights. She asked the Special Representative to share any best practices concerning how countries had provided accessible and comprehensible information to children.

91. **Ms. Garcia Gutierrez** (Costa Rica) said that the report mentioned that thousands of children were detained for indeterminate periods of time without access to justice, unable to challenge their detention and deprived of protection; displaced and migrant children were more vulnerable. In Costa Rica, protocols had been established to guarantee all rights of children, regardless of their migration status. The Government believed that children should not be deprived of liberty under any circumstance. She would like to hear more on measures to prevent the detention of children and discuss the concrete measures that had been taken to protect children currently in detention.

92. **Ms. Zahir** (Maldives) said that nurturing children and ensuring their full potential led not only to social progress and prosperity, but was also the only way to bring about real change. In the Maldives, the utmost importance was placed on the development and safety of children, and there were a number of laws that addressed victims of violence, with specific laws enacted to end violence against children and ensure their protection, notably laws against domestic violence, sexual offences and trafficking in persons.

93. The Maldives had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Government was in the final stages of updating national laws for the protection of children's rights in order to align them with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Despite much progress in strengthening the national legislative framework, difficulties persisted in attempts to break down social and cultural barriers and raise awareness to end practices that placed children in vulnerable positions and exposed them to violence. It would be helpful to hear about best practices and preventive strategies that could help address violence in environments where children lived.

94. **Mr. Wheeldon** (United Kingdom) said that the inclusion in the 2030 Agenda of a distinct target to end all forms of violence against children provided an opportunity that must be seized. Some progress had been made since the United Nations Study on Violence against Children, but the current scale of the problem required urgent attention. The United Kingdom worked tirelessly in its efforts to make progress, as evidenced by its role in the WePROTECT global alliance to end the sexual exploitation of children online, its support for the Fund to End Violence against Children, the leadership of the Prime Minister in the movement to end modern slavery and its decision to join the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children as a founding board member. The United Kingdom looked forward to working with the Special Representative on the board to tackle the issues presented in her report. He asked how she envisaged the relationship between the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative and the Global Partnership.

95. It was difficult to gauge the full scale of the problem of violence against children due to the sensitive nature of the issues, which made data collection challenging. It would be helpful to discuss how to develop and carry out consultations on data collection involving a range of stakeholders within and beyond the United Nations and what timeframe would be required.

96. **Ms. Moutchou** (Morocco) said that both the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Study on Violence against Children provided an opportunity to bring greater visibility to the scourge of violence against children. The report of the Special Representative focused on new means of communication and technology, particularly online abuse and exploitation, and their repercussions on the psychological, sociological and even physical development of children. Given the proposal in the report to develop new regulations to protect children against all forms of Internet abuse and exploitation, her delegation wished to know what the most appropriate framework would be for the development of those standards.

97. **Mr. AlMutairi** (Saudi Arabia) said that Saudi Arabia wished to support the United Nations in its efforts to combat violence against children. The Syrian regime was accusing his country of violating human rights while its forces operated without respect for human rights, especially the rights of children.

98. **Mr. Qassem Agha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he had asked the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict why she had eliminated a mention of the coalition led by Saudi Arabia from her report and had not received an answer. The representative of Qatar had indicated that there were 60,000 Syrian refugees in Qatar, but the report issued by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had indicated that there were only 185 Syrian refugees in Saudi Arabia and 83 in Qatar. It was important to read the report before levelling accusations at other States.

99. **Mr. AlMutairi** (Saudi Arabia) said that, in regard to the accusations made against the coalition led by his country, he wished to reiterate that Saudi Arabia was a responsible country that respected international conventions and agreements, cooperated with the international community and was not afraid to shoulder its responsibility. It was ready to provide assistance in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. He would not discuss the issue with the representative of the Syrian regime and would only discuss it with representatives of the United Nations.

100. **Mr. Ruiz Blanco** (Colombia) said that his delegation was encouraged by the increase in commitments in recent years to ensure the security and protection of children against violence and expressed concern for migrant children who were often separated from their families, which made them more vulnerable to violence and exploitation. For that reason, the establishment and implementation of measures focused on children, particularly the most vulnerable, were decisive in combating inequality.

101. The Government sought to prioritize the protection of children against all forms of violence and change attitudes and behaviours that tolerated violence by promoting a better understanding of the various forms of violence affecting children. In August 2016, it had passed a law establishing the national policy for comprehensive early childhood development. The programme had already benefited 1.2 million children through support for education coverage, teacher training, child development centres, vaccinations, health services and other areas. The Colombian Family Welfare Institute served as a model for providing comprehensive and intersectoral assistance to children and adolescent victims of sexual violence.

102. **Ms. Santos Pais** (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children) said that, in response to questions concerning cyberbullying, legislative efforts were very recent. It was important to clearly identify the offenses that needed to be included, such as sexting, sextortion and harassment through the exposure of information that might be harmful to children. Many States were beginning to include protection orders in legislation, such as apologies or the withdrawal of harmful information. The international community must therefore build upon the preliminary existing practices.

103. In response to questions concerning the involvement of children, there were an increasing number of efforts to promote child-friendly materials that could be understood and used by children to protect them from violence and prevent or react to risks. Child-friendly versions of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure had been published in braille, because all children needed to have access to that information, especially children with disabilities. Consultations with children on bullying and cyberbullying had been promoted by a number of Governments in Latin America. More than 100,000 children had participated in the UNICEF "U-Report" initiative. In the report of the Secretary-General on protecting children from bullying, each section began with an important message from children, which had been collected through a process led by the ombudsman for children in Norway in a broad consultation on the issue. Those efforts were not costly or difficult; it was just a matter of will. The Children's Act in Zanzibar had been developed with the participation of young people. In Europe, children had participated in a recent debate on legislative reform, where they had said that the basic right to grow up happy was being denied.

104. In response to questions concerning the High Time to End Violence against Children initiative, the initiative was being led by all of the partners who were joining, from world leaders to Nobel peace laureates and Governments to civil societies, as well as children. The website was designed to showcase the good practices of all Member States. Currently, there was information concerning legislative reforms; the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and child-sensitive mechanisms that allowed them to share their stories, seek help, and benefit from advice. The social mobilization initiative was one of the efforts that had been developed after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, more initiatives were needed in that regard.

105. In response to questions concerning the empowerment of children, it was fundamental for children, especially those deprived of liberty, to be able to make complaints and seek help without the risk of retaliation, manipulation or harassment. In most cases there were no oversight mechanisms; an independent mechanism, possibly an independent human rights institution, must be allowed to make unannounced visits, meet confidentially with children and engage with them. That would allow the system to improve rather than simply react to complaints.

106. In response to questions concerning migrant and refugee children deprived of liberty, there were very promising examples. Some national legislation included provisions stating that it was not acceptable to deprive children of liberty when they were on the move. Some States had implemented solutions involving guardianship and foster care and others had recognized rightful family reunification. There were many alternatives; States simply needed to have goodwill.

107. **Mr. Abdi** (Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)), said that the international community needed to work together to do more for the most disadvantaged children. Strong partnerships led to better results and were essential to overcoming the challenges facing them.

108. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children (A/71/175) he said that progress was undeniable. There had been a decrease in the under-five mortality rate, the maternal mortality rate, the number of deaths from malaria and the number of out-of-school children. In addition, the number of people using an improved drinking water source had increased. However, not all children were sharing in the progress that had been made, and inequalities persisted. Millions of children were denied vaccinations, proper sanitation, adequate nutrition and care; over 60 million children of primary school age were out of school; nearly a quarter of all children worldwide were affected by stunting, a key marker of child undernutrition; nearly 1 million children living with HIV lacked treatment; a growing number of children were affected by protracted conflicts and heightened instability or faced risks from natural hazards and epidemics; and the number of children who had migrated across borders or been forcibly displaced was at record levels. The United Nations system had never before responded to so many humanitarian situations in so many countries.

109. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/71/413), he said that the report focused on the challenges faced by migrant children. The rights of children must be guaranteed under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, regardless of their migration status. It was critical for States to train and provide necessary guidance to social and child workers, NGOs and professional groups to ensure that decisions were based on the best interests of the child. Measures to protect and support migrant children should also include access to education and other essential services such as health, psychosocial support and legal assistance. States must consider all measures to preserve family unity, as children were best cared for by their families. The report contained a number of good practices to protect refugee and migrant children and underscored the importance of collaboration.

110. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on collaboration within the United Nations system on child protection, he said that strengthened collaboration among the United Nations entities had led to significant progress in the protection of children from violence, exploitation and abuse across the world. Armed forces had released hundreds of children as a result of the Children, Not Soldiers campaign. Governments had adopted new laws criminalizing underage recruitment and developed age-assessment mechanisms. The eight countries targeted by the campaign had signed action plans committing to

prevent and end the recruitment and use of children by national security forces. Child protection actors of the United Nations system also recognized the importance of strengthening data collection and analysis to inform policies and programmes. National data surveys and response plans on violence against children had been launched in 25 countries. The 2030 Agenda included a target to end all forms of violence against children under Goal 16.

111. It was clear from the reports that the international community had the evidence, partnerships and frameworks in place and must now translate them into better results for children by ensuring that necessary and sustained investments were made and that children were at the centre of national plans, policies and programmes.

Organization of work

112. **Mr. Moussa** (Djibouti) reiterated the request made by his delegation for information on what steps had been taken by the Chair to include the oral presentation discussed at an earlier meeting. Time was of the essence, and he wished to draw attention to the urgency of the situation.

113. He also wished to draw attention to the fact that the members of the committee were ready to fulfil their mandate. He wished to remind the Chair that there was very little time left, as the situation had been ongoing since the first meeting of the Committee.

114. **Mr. Zewdu** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation wished to remind the bureau members and the Chair that the issue was being unnecessarily complicated by the Secretary of the Third Committee, and that the view of the Legal Counsel was needed. They had been told that the Office of Legal Affairs had already given its view, but they wished to hear it for themselves.

115. **Mr. Khan** (Secretary of the Committee) said that he wished to state for the record that he had carefully listened to the intervention made by the representative of Ethiopia.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.